Declassified and Approved For Release 2013/01/28 : CIA-RDP08C01297R000600010084-5

INCOMING TELEGRAM *Department of State*

56

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Action

Control: 18562
Rec'd: October 29, 1959
2:54 p.m.

NEA
Info
SS
G
SP
C
L
INR
EUR
E
ULS
P
USIA
MOP
OCB
DCL
IRC
CIA
OSD
ARMY
NAVY
AIR

RMR

FROM: Tehran

TO: Secretary of State

NO: 890, October 29, 10 a.m.

GG/N

EC/E

SENT DEPARTMENT 890; REPEATED INFORMATION BAGHDAD 53, LONDON 52, BASRA 13, KHORRAMSHAHR UNNUMBERED.

There follows an extract of minutes of meeting by Iran Government officials September 8, 1959 laying down Iranian policy re flying flag and pilotage on Shatt-Al-Arab and use of Khosroabad:

"(A) According to a report received by the Navy and confirmed by Savak, Iraqi authorities have for some time been preventing the ships bound for Iranian ports, or from Iranian ports for the sea, from flying the Iranian flag, on the excuse that Shatt-Al-Arab waters belong to Iraq. In view of the existing precedents and of Iran's equal right of navigation in administration on the Shatt-Al-Arab, this action is considered as a new encroachment by Iraq upon the rights of Iran. It is, therefore, necessary that the Ministry of Customs and Monopolies should notify all navigation agencies and firms that in future all vessels entering the Shatt-Al-Arab on their way to Iranian ports or sailing from Iranian ports towards the sea shall fly the Iranian flag. In case of obstruction or molestation by Iraqi officials, the captains of the ships should immediately inform the Iranian port authorities and guard units in the Shatt-Al-Arab in order to call for protection by the Imperial Navy. No ships, whether tankers, commercial vessels, et cetera, violating this instruction shall be allowed entry in Iranian ports, to embark or disembark cargo. The Imperial Naval units receiving from the captains of ships in the Shatt-Al-Arab a report of molestation by the Iraqis will immediately take the necessary steps to restrain such nuisance and to guide and to protect such ships.

(B) As to

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

UNLESS "UNCLASSIFIED" REPRODUCTION FROM THIS COPY IS PROHIBITED.

Declassified and Approved For Release 2013/01/28 : CIA-RDP08C01297R000600010084-5

Declassified and Approved For Release 2013/01/28 : CIA-RDP08C01297R000600010084-5

CONFIDENTIAL

-2- 890, October 29, 10 a.m., from Tehran

(B) As to Khosroabad port, the representative of the Iranian port administration has reported that thus far permission has been granted such Pan-American Oil Company vessels as have asked for authority to fly the Iranian flag. Also, authority has been given that captains of the said company's vessels with a maximum capacity of 500 tons be furnished with pilot licenses. The port administration is prepared to assign a pilot for permanent duty on board the company's vessels with a capacity in excess of 500 tons bound for Khosroabad, and in the case of foreign vessels proceeding to Khosroabad to carry the company's cargo, to detail a pilot as far as the mouth of the Shatt, provided the Pan-American Oil Company should have advised the port authorities 24 hours in advance."

Sanandaji, head of Foreign Office Arab Section, said that personally he believed there would be no objection giving this information shipping companies because Foreign Office intends publish a similar circular eventually for circularizing through Iranian diplomatic and consular missions abroad. Admiral Shahin, however informed Naval Attache that Iranians were going keep rule making foreign ships fly Iranian flag in Shatt.

Sanandaji said that he was pleased no untoward incidents in Shatt had occurred; added his theory that Iraqis were bluffing seems bourne out by safe arrival and departure PANAM ships from Khosroabad. Remarked that practice British ships flying both flags satisfactory Iran. He considers events over issues flag and Khosroabad have been favorable Iran.

Comment: Notwithstanding Sanandaji's aggressiveness, Iran Government may be satisfied with success so far attained. Shahin statement indicates Iranians reluctant start precipitate action. Embassy believes that Iran Government officials now most anxious start talks with Iraqis on Shatt view limited successes they believe they have realized there.

WAILES

AAL:MLJ/6

CONFIDENTIAL

Declassified and Approved For Release 2013/01/28 : CIA-RDP08C01297R000600010084-5